

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, lines 9-11, with the following amended paragraph:

The agent can be configured, if necessary using the configuration component [[206]] of the agent. For example, while the agent is running it is possible to dynamically add or remove device types using the configuration tool and let the agent know about it. It is also possible to stop and restart the agent using the configuration tool.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 11, lines 17-31, with the following amended paragraphs:

The various SAN devices 213, 214 and 215 generate traps to indicate errors, status change, etc. The trap handler [[217]]~~207~~ receives asynchronous traps generated by various devices and forwards them to the error and status handler ESH 218 to process them. In addition to processing incoming traps, the ESH is capable of generating outgoing traps for other management tools, generate alerts and send notification [[221]] to the administrators.

Figure 3 illustrates the ESH [[320]] for handling error and status changes of SAN. This ESH has a hybrid architecture, in that some error and status processing is done at device level and some processing is done at a global level. SAN devices 300, 304, 309, and 311 come with various levels of error and status handling operable on them. This device level error and status handler is the local error and status handler LESH 302, 306, 310, and 312. Almost all SAN devices have an in-memory database LDB 301, 305, and 313 or registers to keep a limited amount of error and status information. The devices will supply this information when requested by the management agents ~~303, 307, 308, and 314.~~

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 13, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment of the invention, a simple and unified scheme [[400]] is provided for downloading firmware to the various devices. The integrated agent 404 provides a unified user interface 405 that hides the device specific download process and characteristics from the administrator. The device specific firmware loaders 406, 407, and 408 sits behind the user interface 405 hidden from the user.